

# Short Outline of the French Revolution

- 1) French class system was unfair
- 2) Writings of the Philosophes inspired 3rd Estate
- 3) French treasury was broke due to extravagant living by upper estates and support of foreign

wars like...

• the American Revolution •

4) Louis XVI tries to get upper estates to pay their fair share of taxes

5) 1st/2nd Estates say no, in fact they demand more of a role in government

6) calling of the "Estates General" a representative body of all estates that hadn't been called since 1614 (its now 1789)  
- problem, ultimately each estate has only one vote

7) 3rd Estate is locked out of the Estates General after one month

8) 3rd Estate members take the Oath of the Tennis Court  
- to create a National Assembly  
- to write a Constitution

9) July 14th, 1789...

Peasants of Paris storm the Bastille, a fortress and prison

- a symbolic gesture

10) Louis tries to work w/  
National Assembly

11) they create the  
Declaration of the Rights  
of Man

12) Prussia & Austria  
declare war on the  
revolutionaries of France,  
their kings feared  
democratic revolutions  
in their country

13) the people of Paris turn on Louis XVI; they behead he and his wife because they represented absolutism

14) this begins the Reign of Terror, led by Maximillian Robespierre, however, even he eventually gets beheaded

15) anarchy reigns, France needs a strong leader to create order...